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## THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF BIBLICAL INSTRUCTORS

New York City, December 29-30, 1921.

(The editorial responsibility for the report of this Conference is assumed as usual, by Professor C. F. Kent, the President of the Conference.—R. L. KELLY.)

The twelfth annual conference of Biblical Instructors of American Colleges and Secondary Schools was held at Columbia University, December 29th and 30th, 1921. About fifty members were present at the two sessions. The discussions were earnest, suggestive, and thoroughly constructive. Throughout the entire conference ran a deep undercurrent of spirituality that left a profound impression on all present.

The President's opening address, by Professor Charles F. Kent of Yale, dealt with the Bible in Modern Education. The present decade has witnessed the acceptance of the Bible as one of the standard subjects of study in almost every department of modern education. Its position in the college curriculum is now firmly established. Graduate Departments of Biblical Literature and Languages have been developed for the thorough training of biblical instructors. Between two and three hundred of our American Colleges have recently accepted Biblical History as a college entrance elective. The week-day religious schools aim to bring the study of the Bible within the reach of all youth. In an increasing number of our state universities, courses in Biblical History, Literature and Languages are offered as a part of the university curriculum. Also at the doors of certain of our state universities Schools of Religion are being established.

In the absence of Professor Humphreys of the University of Michigan, Mr. Kent read a report of what is being done in the large class in Biblical Literature at that institution. The paper proved of great interest and was followed by a discussion of the aims and methods of teaching literature in general. President Blackwell of Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, brought a pleas-

ant greeting from the South and contributed richly to the discussion.

An interesting paper was presented by Mr. Clarke of the Lawrenceville School on A Five Years' Selection of Memory Verses. This plan provides for the memorizing of three verses each week and marks an important step in the development of this side of the Secondary School work.

Miss Rosamund Kimball of West Orange reported interesting developments in the field of biblical dramatics.

The committee on biblical dramas reported progress, and Professor Peritz of Syracuse University announced that he would give later lists and information regarding lantern slides for use in biblical instruction.

The old barriers are down. The place of the Bible in our modern education depends primarily upon the quality of the instruction that is offered. The changed situation challenges our highest endeavor. Deeper still there is in the minds of an increasing body of students an eager, though usually unexpressed, craving for a personal knowledge of the spiritual truths that the Bible contains. A mere knowledge of the origin, the literary form and the historic facts is no longer enough. If the biblical instructor is to satisfy this new craving, he must himself incarnate these vital truths and be able to impart them in ways that are natural, clarifying, and convincing. He must also help his students to find the God of the Prophets and of Jesus and to enable them to see that here is the same Ultimate Reality revealed in the scientific classroom and at every turn in their own lives, if their eyes are but open to perceive Him. Thus the by-products of our classroom—as is so often the case—will prove more valuable to our students than the formal instruction itself. Without these by-products our instruction will be incomplete.

Professor Wood of Smith then read a paper on the Relation of the Biblical Department to the Religious Education of the Student. Dr. Robert L. Kelly, Executive Secretary of the Council of Church Boards of Education, gave a short but inspiring report of the marked increase in the number of colleges now accepting Biblical History as an entrance elective.

At Dr. Kelly's suggestion, a committee, consisting of Dr. Trevorrow, Principal of Centenary Collegiate Institute, as chairman, Mr. Jefferson of Hotchkiss, Mr. Hyde of Hill, Miss Hussy of Mt. Holyoke, Professor W. H. Wood of Dartmouth and President Kent, was appointed to confer with the College Entrance Examination Board regarding the preparation of examination papers in Biblical History. This committee reports that the College Entrance Board will not act until the Preparatory Schools send to them candidates offering Biblical History for college entrance. The future of the movement, therefore, rests with the biblical instructors and students in the preparatory schools and satisfactory developments may be expected in the near future.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Charles F. Kent of Yale; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Ely of Vassar; Recording Secretary, Miss Thompson of Dobbs Ferry, and Treasurer, Mr. Dumont Clarke of the Lawrenceville School.

The program committee consists of Professor Peritz of Syracuse University, Chairman, Mr. Arthur Howe of the Taft School and Mr. Dumont Clarke of the Lawrenceville School.